

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant	:	Michelle Q. Wang Baldonado et al.	)	
			)	
Serial No.	:	09/717,303	)	Examiner:
			)	Djenane M. Bayard
Cnfrm. No.	:	8448	)	
			)	
Filed	:	November 22, 2000	)	Art Unit:
			)	2444
For	:	SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR MANAGING A	)	
		COMPUTER-MEDIATED DISCUSSION FORUM	)	

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**DECLARATION OF MARY FRANCES HEEKS  
UNDER 37 CFR § 1.132**

**Mail Stop: Petition**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

I, Mary Frances Heeks, declare:

1. I am a Patent Support Specialist working at Nixon Peabody LLP, 1100 Clinton Square, Rochester, NY, 14604 ("Nixon Peabody") under direct supervision of Shubhrangshu Sengupta (Reg. No. 67,109), handling prosecution of the above-identified patent application, and assisting with the above-identified patent application. All correspondence regarding the above-identified U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/717,303 are promptly brought to my attention for appropriate docketing and reporting action(s), per Nixon Peabody's policies and procedures.

2. In response to an Appeal Brief filed December 4, 2009, I did not receive a Notice of Defective Appeal Brief (Notice) from the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), a facsimiled copy of which was sent to the offices of Nixon Peabody on October 27, 2010, as a courtesy by Examiner Bayard. I have verified the absence of any receipt of the Notice in our docketing system prior to October 27, 2010, and was only made aware of the same on or after September 15, 2010, when Applicants' representative, Shubhrangshu Sengupta, was contacted by Examiner Bayard regarding the Notice. Further, I was unable to obtain any information regarding the above-noted patent application from the Public-PAIR and Private-PAIR web-pages of USPTO.

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3. I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

Date: November 24, 2010

/s/ Mary Frances Heeks  
**Mary Frances Heeks**